REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Claims Status

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1-3 and 8-10 are rejected. Claims 1 and 8 are independent in form and are herein amended. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Claims 4-7 and 11-14 have been indicated as including allowable subject matter but have been objected to as to form for depending from claims which stand rejected.

Prior Art Rejections Under 35 USC §102(a)

Claims 1 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Needham, et al. (GB 2,349,774A hereinafter "Needham").

The Examiner has taken the position that Needham discloses all the elements recited in these claims. Applicants respectfully do not agree with the Examiner with regard to the teachings attributed to Needham and respectfully submit that, in our opinion, the teachings of cited prior art are not as stated by the Examiner in rejecting claims 1 and 8.

The present invention provides a method and an apparatus for transmitting accurate ELIN/callback number from an emergency caller calling from behind a PBX/MLTS system that is coupled to one or more private networks for far end "hop off" to a public network. According to the present invention, emergency calls are given priority treatment over non-emergency calls. The ELIN and callback information are formatted using the appropriate encoding of the deployed private network (e.g., proprietary, CAMA, PRI).

Needham's teaching, on the other hand, differs from the present invention at least in that it is directed specifically towards a method for guaranteeing channel availability for emergency calls in an ISDN network. According to Needham, a single ITU-T E.164 telephone number is used as a location identifier for multiple extension numbers within a building or group of buildings served by the PBX (see Needham, page 3, line 21-24).

Thus, the system in Needham is simply different from the present invention. Needham is limited in scope to ISDN networks and it does not address a network involving

analog trunks. Furthermore, unlike the present invention, Needham does not address having one or more private networks for far end hop off to a public network. In addition, the present invention provides a method and an apparatus for transmitting accurate ELIN and/or callback information to the PSAP. This is very different from Needham where a single telephone number is used to identify multiple extension numbers within the same building or across several buildings.

Specifically, the Examiner contends that Needham "discloses a method for processing an emergency call made from behind a PBX/MLTS coupled to a private network". Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants respectfully submit that Needham does not teach or disclose a PBX/MTLS that is coupled to one or more private networks as the Examiner contends. Applicants believe that the analog and/or ISDN private networks claimed in the present invention are not present in Needham and the teachings of Needham cannot fairly be extended thereto. The Examiner asserts that the private network "reads on PBX and associated ISDN trunks". (¶3 of the Office Action.) The Examiner equates a single PBX and its associated ISDN trunks to the network described in the present invention, which comprises analog and/or ISDN private networks coupled to the PBX and the associated ISDN trunks. This, Applicants submit, is an unsupported interpretation of Needham.

Indeed, Needham's system is limited in scope to ISDN trunks. The PBX in Needham connects to the public network using ISDN trunk cards only (see reference numeral 26a - 26C in Fig. 1 of Needham). This differs from the present invention in which the private network route may include ISDN (e.g., QSIG/PSS1) or analog tie trunks. As indicated in, for example, Figure 1 of the instant application, both ISDN and CAMA analog trunks can be used. The device handler of the present invention determines the necessary signaling/outpulsing mechanism depending on the type of trunk used.

When the trunk is a private trunk, the ELIN and/or call back number are formatted in a proprietary encoding. However, when the trunk is a public trunk, the ELIN and callback number are formatted according to the trunk protocol being used (e.g. CAMA, PRI). The trunk facilities may be non-ISDN with DTMF signaling or ISDN where the ELIN and callback number are encoded in the setup message that is transmitted over the signaling channel.

Furthermore, the environment and functionality of the present invention is different from that of the cited prior art in at least the foregoing respects. The present invention

as recited in independent claims 1 and 8 is thus clearly distinguishable from Needham in at least the several respects stated above.

While Applicants thus respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion that claims 1 and 8 are anticipated by Needham, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 8 in the interest of clarity to indicate explicitly that the present invention is applicable to both analog and ISDN networks.

Applicants accordingly submit that the present invention as claimed is not anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of the limited and different teachings of Needham and the other art of record, individually or in combination.

Dependent Claims

Applicants have not independently addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicants believe that, as the independent claims from which they depend are allowable for at least the reasons discussed *supra*, the dependent claims are allowable for at least similar reasons. Applicants however, reserve the right to address such rejections should such response be necessary or appropriate.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-14 as presented herein are neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of, and thus allowable over, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application.

Applicant believes no fees are required for this Amendment. A petition for a one-month extension of time is submitted herewith, extending the time for responding to November 14, 2003. Should an additional extension of time be required for the timely submission of this paper, such extension is hereby petitioned and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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